

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 9-12, and 14-24 remain in the application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks presented herewith.

Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Cotton (U.S. Patent No. 4,740,954). Further, Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cotton in view of Ryu (U.S. Patent No. 6,847,633).

Applicants have amended independent Claim 22 to more clearly specify that the claimed invention requires “participating receiving devices that a) receive indicia that a sourcing device is actively sourcing one or more packets addressed to the multicast group address and b) issue a join command to one or more network devices” As mentioned in Applicants’ Appeal Brief, such a limitation is missing from the Cotton reference. See Applicants’ Appeal Brief dated 14 January 2006, page 6. Further, such a limitation has been added to coincide with allowable Claim 2. Since Claim 24 is dependent upon amended Claim 22 and amended Claim 22 is argued to be patentable over the Cotton reference for the reasons stated in Applicants’ Appeal Brief, Claim 24 should also be allowable. As such, Applicants assert that the claims in the present application are in proper form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 502117.

Respectfully submitted,

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